

MISSION STATEMENT: Catholic Daughters of the Americas strive to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas was organized by the Knights of Columbus in 1903 in New York. Now in 2016 it has 75,000 Catholic Daughters in 1,250 courts within 45 states and Puerto Rico, Guam, Mexico and the Virgin Islands. At the 1956 National Convention Archbishop Fulton Sheen said he would like to see the Catholic Daughters become Catholic daughters of the world. In the 2014 National Convention Father Matthew renewed the challenge. On December 8, 2015 National Regent Shirley Seyfried and National Regent elect Helen Shepard instituted the first "world" court in Kenya, in East Africa. Court St Monica #2706 was instituted with 60 women present and many more wanted to come but were working. In June 2016 Shirley and Olga Samaniego instituted two courts in Chimbote, Peru and one in Coischco, Peru. One of the visions for the world courts is to help those ladies to fill the need in their countries.

Each year contributions from the individual courts are compiled and distributed to National Projects and Charities. In 2016 \$40,475 was given to Court Monica of Kenya so that they could buy a bus and tractor to aid their work and have income to build their parish and help the poor. \$15,000 was given to the Laboure Society for tuition assistance to those pursuing a religious life. \$31,000 was awarded to Holy Cross Family ministries. \$56,400 was awarded to SMILE Train. \$10,000 was given to Apostleship of the Sea and \$13,000 was donated to the National Council of Sexual Exploitation (formerly Morality in Media). CDA has been on board for almost 54 years helping to define dignity while educating the public about the negative impact of pornography. It has built houses for Habitat for Humanity in various states and in Mexico.

The website for National CDA is: www.catholicdaughters.org

Minnesota has 34 Courts and one Junior Court. Information about the State and courts within the state may be found at: www.mncda.com

Court Joan of Arc #691 of Blue Earth presently has 41 members. In June 2016 new officers were installed for the next two years. They are: Regent: Ilene Sukalski, Vice Regent: Catherine Mino, Recording Secretary: Ruth Kastner, Financial Secretary: Mary Ann Murphy, Treasurer: Susan Wiltse.